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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

HEARING ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET PROPOSALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

FEBRUARY 26, 1985, 1:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MERVYN M. DYMALLY

Let me start, Chairwoman Oakar, by commending you for moving so quickly to hold hearings on these issues of vital concern to Postal and Federal employees. Your leadership in this area is much appreciated by your Committee colleagues and the people whose interests we represent.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Personnel and Modernization, I am deeply concerned about the Administration's latest proposals for cutting Civil Service Retirement benefits. Once again, Postal and Federal employees are being threatened with losing the retirement benefits they have worked for and deserve, under the guise of reducing the Federal budget deficit. Federal employees also are being asked to accept a five percent

reduction in pay, when an independent study commissioned by this committee shows that Federal employee pay already lags behind the private sector by an average of ten percent. Health benefits are threatened, as well. While it is certainly necessary to reduce the huge deficit that has loomed up in the past four years under the current Administration, this task cannot be accomplished on the backs of the Federal workforce.

For too long, the Administration has projected an image of its own workforce which suggests to the American people that Postal and Federal employees receive too many benefits and are unproductive -- in effect, little more than a drain on the Federal budget. As you well know, Madam Chair, these workers perform many services vital to the well-being of large segments of our society. The Administration attempts to lay the blame for deficit problems on Federal and Postal employees because it is expedient to do so, conveniently ignoring the vast majority of productive, dedicated workers who have made a career of public service.

I join you and my other colleagues here today to emphasize my continuing support of Postal and Federal employees in their fight to retain hard-won and well-deserved benefits. I am also strongly behind their efforts to counter the false image created by their own employer, and to regain a sense of self esteem for their work in the Federal government. Public employees must no longer shoulder undue financial and psychological burdens to

compensate for the current Administration's deficit woes.

Once again, I commend you, Madam Chair, for taking the initiative on this issue, and for sending the Administration a clear signal of Congressional intent on this matter.